

Egremont Board of Health

Egremont, Massachusetts

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVE

WEARING OF MASKS **INDOORS**, AND SAFETY STANDARDS

Effective Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Amended September 16, 2021

Amended September 30, 2021

WHEREAS, the Delta variants are now accounting for approximately 98% of positive cases in Massachusetts (source <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions>) and cases have started to appear in Egremont; and

WHEREAS, these variants are almost twice as contagious as previous variants; and

WHEREAS, as we see cases rise in surrounding counties and communities, we are committed to preventing transmission, keeping our infection numbers as low as possible, keeping businesses and schools open, and preventing our most vulnerable from serve illness; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, “Given what we know about the Delta variant, vaccine effectiveness, and current vaccine coverage, layered prevention strategies, such as wearing masks, are needed to reduce the transmission of this variant”; and

WHEREAS, Boards of Health have authority under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 111, section 31, may make reasonable rules and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, commencing on Tuesday September 14, 2021 at 12:01 am, the following directives are hereby implemented in the Town of Egremont and shall remain in effect until this Directive is rescinded and/or amended.

1. Appropriate CDC approved masks shall be worn in all indoor public spaces in the Town of Egremont, unless seated at a table consuming food and/or drink. A sign, provided by the Egremont Board of Health, shall be posted at the entrance of all buildings.
2. Food service establishment employees shall wear a mask or face covering when serving customers, both indoors and outdoors.
3. **OMITED THIS SECTION REFERRING TO OUTDOOR EVENTS.**
4. Masks shall be fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; and be secured with ties or ear loops; and include multiple layers of fabric; and allow for breathing without restrictions; and may be removed for eating, drinking where allowed. Disposable surgical/procedural masks, N-95s, elastomeric masks, cloth masks are permitted. Masks with exhale valves are not permitted.

5. Event planners and/or any organizations shall consider postponement of any indoor event/gathering where social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet per person cannot be maintained.

In addition, the Egremont Board of Health is encouraging community members to:

1. Get vaccinated
2. Stay at home if showing signs or symptoms of COVID
3. Get tested for COVID-19 if you have new or unexplained symptoms, before and after traveling and/or if you have been exposed.
4. If at risk of exposure, call and schedule a test at 1-855-BMC-LINK
5. More information on COVID-19 can be found at www.mass.gov/covid and www.cdc.org

Exemptions:

1. Nothing in this directive shall be construed to require a mask to be worn by children under age two (2) or children who frequently compromise mask integrity with frequent manipulations or removals, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance or anyone who cannot wear a mask for other underlying health and safety reasons.
2. Masks may be taken off in restaurants/bars only while seated and eating/drinking.
3. Employees in shared office spaces are not required to mask if social distancing of six feet or more can be maintained.
4. **Masks are not required if someone is alone in a work space but a mask should be readily available and worn when someone enters.**
5. Performers who are singing and/or playing brass or wind instruments, who are performance artists or who are presenting or speaking at an event, are not required to wear face coverings but must adhere to social distancing of at least 10 feet from any member of the public when performing indoors or outdoors.

Enforcement

The person or entity in control of a public indoor or outdoor space shall have the obligation to enforce the requirements of this public health directive set forth in these policies and procedures.

Non-compliance with this directive may impact further spread of COVID-19, impact the health and safety of others. Non-compliance with this directive, the Egremont Board of Health, under their authority may implement more strict rules and regulations of this directive that may include daily fines for non-compliance and further action that may include suspension and revocation of permits issued by the Egremont Board of Health.

This directive is effective beginning 12:01 am Tuesday September 14, 2021, as voted by the Egremont Board of Health at their meeting on Friday, September 10, 2021.

This directive, and its status, will be reviewed routinely at Egremont Board of Health meetings.